

Appl. No. : 10/060,920
Filed : January 29, 2002

REMARKS

By way of summary, Claims 1–62 were pending in this application. In the July 29, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention. The Examiner objected to Claims 6–20 and 39–51 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner also rejected Claims 1–5, 21–38 and 52–62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,366,954 to Traversat et al. (“Traversat”).

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants are canceling Claims 1–5, 23–38 and 52–62 without prejudice or disclaimer and are amending Claims 6 and 39. Claims 7–22 and 40–51 remain as originally filed.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants are submitting herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and PTO/SB/08 equivalent listing eighty-seven (87) references. These references were cited during the prosecution of co-pending related U.S. patent applications, which were identified to the Examiner in an Information Disclosure Statement submitted on December 12, 2002. While Applicants do not believe that the listed references affect the patentability of the pending claims, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the pending claims in connection with these references in order to make them of record.

PRIORITY

Applicants note that the July 29, 2005 Office Action did not indicate an acknowledgement of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) as indicated on Page 1, paragraph 1 of the specification. Applicants respectfully request an acknowledgement in any subsequent communication from the Examiner.

TITLE OF INVENTION

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have revised the title and, thus, respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

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ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER—CLAIMS 6–20 AND 39–51

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 6–20 and 39–51. By the foregoing amendments, Applicants have rewritten Claim 6 in independent form to incorporate all the limitations of the corresponding rejected base claim and intervening claim (i.e., cancelled Claims 1 and 2). Applicants have also rewritten Claim 39 in independent form to incorporate all the limitations of the corresponding rejected base claim (i.e., cancelled Claim 36). Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6–20 and 39–51 are in condition for allowance.

REJECTED CLAIMS 21 AND 22

In the July 29, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejects dependent Claims 21 and 22 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,366,954 to Traversat. Claims 21 and 22, however, each depend from intervening Claim 19, which the Examiner found to have allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 21 and 22 be withdrawn.

CANCELLED CLAIMS 1–5, 23–38 AND 52–62

By the foregoing amendments, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1–5, 23–38 and 52–62 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuing applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Applicants' undersigned attorney of record hereby formally requests a telephone interview with the Examiner. The Applicants' attorney can be reached at (949) 721-2998 or at the number listed below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 10-25-05

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